

## Starting Well

# Child Immunisations

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### Introduction

[Immunisations](#) are a highly effective way of maintaining the health of the population by reducing the occurrence of infectious diseases. Immunisation protects people and communities from serious infectious diseases. The individual themselves is protected but it also means vaccinated people are less likely to be a source of infection to others. This will then protect an individual who cannot be vaccinated as there is less risk of them being exposed to infection.

This concept is called population or “herd” immunity. For example, babies below the age of two months are too young to be immunised but are at greater risk of dying if they catch whooping cough. These babies are protected because other children, including their siblings have been routinely immunised as part of the childhood immunisation programme.

When vaccine coverage is high enough to provide high levels of population immunity, infections may even be eliminated from the country, such as in the case of diphtheria. However, if high vaccination coverage is not maintained, it would be possible for the disease to return.

Immunisations are commissioned by the NHS England Area Team, from General Practices and other providers. The role of local Public Health is to monitor and scrutinise the delivery of the vaccination programmes. Local Public Health also gives assurance to the Health and Well Being board on the how these programmes are being delivered to the local communities.

### What do we know?

The immunisation data has been provided at a General Practitioner (GP) level by [Public Health England](#) for 2013/14. The number of immunisations provided by GPs across the Local Authority area has been used to identify the vaccination rate for West Berkshire.

**Table 1: Uptake of the DTaP/IPV/Hib vaccine at the age of 12 months. This vaccine protects against diphtheria, tetanus, whooping cough, polio and Haemophilus influenzae B (Hib) infection.**

Local Authority	No. of eligible children	Percentage coverage	Met 95% target?
Bracknell Forest	1500	94.7%	No
Reading	3030	93.1%	No
Slough	2500	94.4%	No
West Berkshire	1710	93.8%	No
Royal Borough of Windsor & Maidenhead	1790	94.4%	No
Wokingham	1520	94.5%	Yes

Source: Health & Social Care Information Centre: NHS Immunisation Statistics – England 2015

**Table 2: Uptake of the Hib/meningitis C booster, third dose of Pneumococcal (PCV) vaccine and 1st dose of the Measles, Mumps and Rubella (MMR) vaccine at the age of 2 years.**

Local Authority	No. of eligible children	Hib/ Meningitis C booster	PCV	MMR	Met 95% target for all 3 vaccines?
		%	%	%	
Bracknell Forest	1600	91.5%	91.4%	91.8%	No
Reading	3300	94.1%	89.3%	91.0%	No
Slough	2600	88.2%	88.6%	88.3%	No
West Berkshire	1800	93.1%	92.7%	92.9%	No
Royal Borough of Windsor & Maidenhead	1900	91.8%	92.3%	91.6%	No
Wokingham	1800	92.2%	91.3%	92.1%	No

Source: Health & Social Care Information Centre: NHS Immunisation Statistics – England 2015

**Table 3: Uptake of the DTaP booster and MMR (Measles, Mumps and Rubella) 2nd dose at the age of 5 years.**

Local Authority	No. of eligible children	DTaP/Hib booster	MMR (1 <sup>st</sup> & 2 <sup>nd</sup> dose)	Met 95% target for both vaccines?
		%	%	
Bracknell Forest	1600	86.0%	86.3%	No
Reading	3100	85.2%	86.8%	No
Slough	2700	81.7%	82.2%	No
<b>West Berkshire</b>	<b>1900</b>	<b>89.7%</b>	<b>90.6%</b>	<b>No</b>
Royal Borough of Windsor & Maidenhead	2100	85.3%	86.6%	No
Wokingham	1800	88.6%	90.0%	No

Source: Health & Social Care Information Centre: NHS Immunisation Statistics – England 2015

Information is also available at a CCG level and is shown in the table 4 for the two CCGs in West Berkshire:

**Table 4: Childhood immunisation coverage at CCG level (2013/14)**

	Eligible cohort	DTaP/PIPV/Hib Uptake at 12 months	Eligible cohort	Hib/MenC booster Uptake at 24 months	PCV Uptake at 24 months	MMR 1 <sup>st</sup> dose Uptake at 24 months
Newbury & District CCG	1, 404	92.4%	1, 501	94.0%	89.7%	94.9%
North & West Reading CCG	1, 501	95.3%	1, 492	93.8%	90.6%	95.2%

Source: NHS England, Child Immunisation 2013/14 Q4

The CCG data for vaccination uptake at 5 years old did not reach the validation criteria and therefore has not been published.

### What is the data telling us?

West Berkshire has not achieved the national target of 95% for any of the childhood immunisations.

### Recommendations for consideration

[NHS England Thames Valley Area Team](#) is developing a plan working together with local stakeholders to improve immunisation coverage across Berkshire for the under 5's age group, which includes Measles, Mumps and Rubella (MMR). Part of the plan

will be to ensure that data is collected to give an accurate picture of the actual coverage, along with supporting GP practices to improve their immunisation uptakes.

Work is continuing in all areas across Berkshire to increase the uptake of the second Measles, Mumps and Rubella (MMR) injections. The NHS England Thames Valley screening and immunisation team are regularly identifying those children who are late for immunisation and ensure that this information is supplied to the relevant practices for them to follow up these children.

### **National and local strategies**

[Immunisation Against Infectious Disease](#) - Also known as the Green Book. Explains how the immunisation program has developed. It also has the latest information on vaccines and vaccination procedures for all the vaccine preventable infectious diseases that may occur in the UK.

[Complete Immunisation Schedule in the UK](#) - Includes ages of when vaccines should be given.

In April 2013, the Department of Health, Public Health England and NHS England jointly launched [a campaign aiming to drive up the uptake of the Measles, Mumps and Rubella \(MMR\) vaccination](#).

NHS England (South Central) undertake work across the whole of Berkshire to improve immunisations including the following:

- Scrutinising quarterly COVER (0-5 immunisation programmes to identify low performing practices in order to offer support with improving update.
- Provision of a small grant via Directors of Public Health to initiate targeted work to tackle health inequalities. This has included awareness campaigns in Slough and South Reading.
- They are in the process of commissioning two clinical public health posts in Berkshire to enhance capacity for practice level work to follow up unimmunised children and families, particularly focusing on health inequalities.

### **Other chapters you might be interested in**

Access to the Antenatal Pathway

Antenatal and Newborn Screening

Breastfeeding

Child Development Check for ages 2 to 2 and a half years

Maternal Mental Health

Smoking in Pregnancy

If you have any questions about this chapter, please contact Public Health and Wellbeing Team on [publichealthandwellbeing@westberks.gov.uk](mailto:publichealthandwellbeing@westberks.gov.uk) or 01635 503437